

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2994 without my signature.

While I support the goal of recognizing the stringent environmental standards California has placed on the forestry industry, many other industries face similar regulatory burdens without the availability of bidding preferences. The preferences imposed by this bill could result in costly legal challenges, retaliation by other states and nations, and bid protests from those claiming the preference should be granted and those objecting to it.

This bill takes the state's procurement efforts in the opposite direction of the general economic trends for free and open trade in a global economy.

I encourage all Californians to buy voluntarily California-grown and manufactured products, particularly when the price, fitness and quality of the product are equal. As I have said, "Be Californian, Buy California Grown."

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger